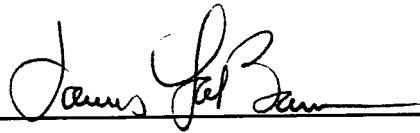


**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested. This amendment is intended to place the claims in a more conventional format and eliminate the multiple dependency of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated December 7, 2001**

**Marked-up Claims 1-16**

1. (Amended) A multi-operator ticketing system [which comprises] comprising first means [(103)] specific to a first operator for acquiring the content of a ticket [(104)] issued by [this] said first operator and for authorising a service according to the information acquired, [characterised in that it also comprises second means (106), referred to as “] and consulate[”] means[, ] for receiving [the] information [when they come] from a ticket [(105)] issued by another operator and for transmitting to the first means [a simple] authorisation to render [the] said service according to the information obtained and processed in a manner specific to the consulate means.

2. (Amended) A system according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the service authorisation is dependent on the prior performance of a transaction.

3. (Amended) A system according to Claim 1 [or 2, characterised in that] wherein the methods of processing information by the first means [(103)] and the consulate means [(106)] are concealed with respect to each other.

4. (Amended) A system according to [any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that] claim 1 wherein the consulate [(106)] means is physically included in the first means [(103)].

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**Marked-up Claims 1-16**

5. (Amended) A system according to [any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that] claim 1 wherein the consulate [(106)] means is physically external to the first means [(103)].

6. (Amended) A system according to [any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the system comprises] claim 1 further including a central unit [(101)] and a set of remote stations [(103) intended] to acquire the content of the tickets and to perform the transactions [and] , which remote stations are connected to the central unit by first transmission circuits [(102)].

7. (Amended) A system according to Claim 6, [characterised in that] wherein each remote station [(103)] comprises a consulate [(106)].

8. (Amended) A system according to [either one of Claims 6 and 7, characterised in that] claim 6 wherein the central unit [(101)] comprises second transmission circuits [(107)] for transmitting to the central unit of the other operator [(201)] the data corresponding to the transactions effected on behalf of [this] said other operator.

9. (Amended) A system according to [any one of Claims 6 to 8, characterised in that] claim 6 wherein the central unit comprises third transmission circuits [(108)] for

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**Marked-up Claims 1-16**

transmitting from the central unit of the other operator [(201)] to the consulate means [(106)] the information concerning the methods of processing, by the consulate means, of the information carried by the ticket [(105)].

10. (Amended) A system according to [any one of Claims 1 to 9, characterised in that it is applied] claim 6 wherein said services pertain to a common transportation system and [in that] the remote stations [(103)] are validators for access to [the] transportation vehicles, the information carried by the tickets being read by the validators.

11. (Amended) A system according to Claim 10, [characterised in that] wherein the tickets are information carriers such as tickets with a magnetic strip, plastic or cardboard, or contact or contactless smart cards.

12. (Amended) A system according to [any one of Claims 1 to 9, characterised in that it is applied] claim 6 wherein the services pertain to a mobile telephony system and [in that] the remote stations [(103)] are base stations in mobile telephony networks, the information carried by the tickets being read by mobile telephones and transmitted to the base stations.

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**Marked-up Claims 1-16**

13. (Amended) A system according to Claim 12, [characterised in that] wherein the tickets are in portable telephone form with associated mobile telephony smart card [(GSM or UMTS standards)].

14. (Amended) A system according to [any one of Claims 1 to 9, characterised in that it is applied] claim 6 wherein the services pertain to a banking system and [in that] the remote stations [(103)] are dispensing terminals, the information carried by the tickets being read by the dispensing terminals.

15. (Amended) A system according to Claim 14, [characterised in that] wherein the tickets are in the form of credit cards, with a chip or magnetic tape.

16. (Amended) A system according to [any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that it is applied] claim 1, wherein the services pertain to systems with different purposes.

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